

Re: Proposed Traffic Calming Measures

As residents of Sunset Avenue for the past six years, we are well aware of the traffic problems in the Lincoln Avenue-Sunset Avenue neighborhood. While the volume of traffic on Sunset is not as high as it is on Lincoln, the problem with excessive speed is similar. The two blocks of Sunset Avenue between Amity and Fearing are home to about a dozen pre-teen children. These streets are also a pedestrian and cyclist route for local residents and, yes, commuters to UMass. The current street configuration privileges vehicular traffic over other users by allowing cars to travel at speeds well above posted limits.

Since commuters do need to get to UMass and traffic will eventually find the quickest route to its destination, controlling the flow of traffic needs to be addressed simultaneously throughout the neighborhood, on Lincoln, Sunset, Fearing, McClellan and any other side street that could be used as a short cut to the University. We therefore urge the Department of Public Works to include traffic calming measures such as permanent speed tables and stop signs on Sunset and Fearing as well as on Lincoln Ave. Additionally, we encourage continued collaboration with the University to direct UMass-bound traffic to routes better designed to accommodate it, Route 116 and the aptly named University Drive.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Lisa Plantefaber
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